

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

DELIVERED TO THE

GRADUATING CLASS

OF THE

HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE

OF

PENNSYLVANIA,

AT THE

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT,

March 3d, 1862.

BY

J. K. LEE, M. D.,

PROFESSOR OF MATERIA MEDICA AND THERAPEUTICS.

PHILADELPHIA:

COLLINS, PRINTER, 705 JAYNE STREET.

1862.



VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

/

DELIVERED TO THE

GRADUATING CLASS

OF THE

HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE

OF

PENNSYLVANIA,

AT THE

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT,

March 3d, 1862.

BY

J. K. LEE, M. D.,

PROFESSOR OF MATERIA MEDICA AND THERAPEUTICS.

PHILADELPHIA:
COLLINS, PRINTER, 705 JAYNE STREET.

1862.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from

This project is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN OF THE GRADUATING CLASS—

WHILST to others the formalities of this occasion may appear empty and unmeaning, to you they are fraught with peculiar and momentous interest. They indicate that you have passed successfully through the required curriculum of study and been adjudged worthy of official authority to exercise the office of a physician.

And with this conferment, you assume responsibilities of the gravest character—responsibilities which have no parallel in the ordinary avocations of life, and are only second in importance to those which devolve on him who is divinely commissioned to minister at the sacred altar.

Hitherto you have been revelling amid the wild dreams of fancy or culling the sweet flowers of youthful enjoyment, without an anxious care to repress your buoyant spirits or ripple the undisturbed tranquillity of your minds, save, perhaps, when you have sought to penetrate the misty future and solve the intricate problem of your destiny; but now you are about to leave your quiet moorings and embark upon the tempestuous sea of life, to test its stern realities and dare its latent dangers—sometimes to gallantly career before the favoring breeze with flaunting sail and not a lowering cloud to portend the approaching storm or bode of evil; and again to be rudely tossed like the noble vessel which creaks and groans in every timber,

when lashed by the furious waves and threatened with their yawning depths.

“Thus the ever-changing course of things
Runs a perpetual circle, ever turning,
And that same day, that highest glory brings
Brings us unto the point of back returning.”

Nevertheless, as Byron beautifully expresses it—

“All when life is new
Commence with feelings warm and prospects high,
But time strips our illusions of their hue.”

Thus, whilst age enfeebled and disappointed, sullenly retires from the bootless conflict to seek a sanetuary in retirement, impetuous youth, with trenehant blade, is ever eager for the fray and heeds not the voice which warns of danger; so that to him, the darkest cloud is spanned with the rainbow of promise and present griefs seem but the shadows that enhance the opening glories of the future.

But whilst with all the charaeteristic ardor of earlier years, you are restive under restraint and pant for a participation in the active scenes that await you, in order that you may respond to the natural instinets of your nature and win the meed of praise and the honors of renown, still I am persuaded, that you would rush not headlong with all the implicit eonfidence of presuming ignorance, and trust to blind chance for the aeeomplishment of your high purposes. With a prudent forecast which is eom mendable, you have earefully surveyed the diffieulties which encompass your undertaking and sought to provide yourselves with every appliance to insure suceess. With this cherished objeet in view, you have foregone the rounds of pleasure, and the temptations of ease, and like a recluse withdrawn from the world and its blandishments, in order that you might discipline your mental powers for effort, expand their capabilities and freight them with the treasures of knowledge.

For years have you thus toiled like the galley slave, in threading the intricate mazes of science and sounding the depths of professional learning, never once relaxing your efforts or faltering in your purpose, although at times disappointments weighed upon your spirits, and human nature faint and weary from constant application, was ready to succumb.

And to-day, as a partial reward for all these sacrifices and denials, you witness the culmination of your brightest hopes and the fruition of your arduous labors.

But it must not be presumed that when the term of pupilage ends and the student expands into the physician, habits of study can be relinquished, and the mind lapse into a condition of sluggish stupor. He who adopts this erroneous idea, is guilty of an act of fatuity which clips the wings of ambition and strips him of the ability to soar to the heights of distinction, and enrol his name on the annals of enduring fame. He may perform the ordinary routine of duties with some degree of acceptability, and win for himself a local reputation, still he will ever grope amid impenetrable darkness, and leave behind no trace of his existence, no lasting monument to perpetuate his memory and endear him to posterity. He may enjoy the prestige of wealth and honorable lineage, but instead of these contributing to his success, they will only render his failure more conspicuous and deny him that small boon which oblivion would prove to his expiring moments.

Nor can we predicate success on the mere possession of native genius or brilliancy of intellectual endowments; for although these may flash and flame like the meteor in his fiery orbit, like that erratic luminary, they will only dazzle and coruscate for a brief period, and then fade from human vision and be quenched in eternal night. In short, there is no excellence without great labor, and when the Almighty sounded in the terror stricken ears of our first parents, the inflexible decree that man should earn his

bread by the sweat of his brow, he proclaimed a law the benefits of whieh no pen can deseribe or tongue enumereate. Poetry in flowing numbers has hymned the praises of labor and eloquence laid her noble tribute at its shrine, the chisel has made the cold inanimate marble speak its worth, and the glowing canvass in living colors portrays its glories: and yet the story of its aehievements remains untold, and the theme is unexhausted and exhaustless. It is this whieh diseovers and opens up the teeming resources of nature, and makes them tributary to the wants of our species; it is this which arouses to action the dormant intellectual energies and moulds and develops their capabilities, until they expand into godlike proportions; and it is this, assisted by divine graee, that so renovates and refines our moral organization as to eliminate its inherent impurities, and render it fit for the eompanionship of angels and the hallowed presenee of Deity. And it is this alone upon which we can safely base our expectations of sueeess in the great struggle of life. Other foundations are as yielding and unreliable as the drifting sand, but this is firm as the eternal granite, and upon it we can rear a superstructure whieh may defy the pelting storm or even the corroding tooth of time. Labor moreover, or its equivalent energy of character eonjoined with habits of severe study, renders us not the subjects but the masters of eircumstances, so that the most adverse are eontrolled and made to contribute to the aeeomplishment of our designs. And whilst the sea of life is everywhere strown with the wrecks of those who were nursed in the lap of luxury and enjoyed all the advantages of hereditary honors, it proudly bears upon its bosom those who were born in obseurity and diseiplined in the severe school of poverty. And of all those who have illuminated the pages of history by the lustre of their aehievements and the renown of their virtues, much the larger number were the sons of penury endowed with few natural facili-ties, but having an indomitable will, whieh more than

atones for the absence of other advantages, they struggled manfully with every difficulty, and forced their way up despite every obstruction and discouragement, until they attained the summit of their ambition and claimed a peerage with the most illustrious of their age. Wealth, instead of fostering genius, tends rather to emasculate it by the influence of its effeminating indulgences, and so far from promoting its expansion, it more frequently dwarfs its budding energies and extinguishes the last spark of its internal fires. Nor is this mere hypothesis or a deduction from assumed premises, since history, the impartial chronicler of events—that venerable teacher whose lessons are the embodiment of stern inflexible truths—fortifies and confirms our position by the inexorable logic of facts. Her pages abound in numerous examples which teach us that nations which were once distinguished for their manly virtues, their enterprise, their proud achievements, and their moral elevation, became debauched by the influence of opulence, declined in power and relapsed into their primitive insignificance.

Imperial Rome, which sat enthroned upon the Seven Hills as the queen of the world, and received the homage of all mankind, felt its corrupting and blighting influence, and her ruined cities and broken columns alone remain to tell the story of her former greatness and splendor.

And classic Greece, the foster mother of song and eloquence, and the focus of every refinement, where learning flourished in its fullest vigor and the arts were cultivated until they reached the perfection of development, maintained her proud position and diffused the benign influence of letters, until she grasped after the sceptre of universal empire and the tribute of her conquered provinces flowed into her coffers; then luxury with its concomitant vices sapped her foundations, and she crumbled into ruins, ever to receive the adoration of the scholar down to latest posterity. And as nations are but the aggregation of individuals of which they are the type,

it follows that the same causes will produce the same results in the one as the other, the difference being only in degree.

Moreover, man is naturally an intellectual as well as a moral and physical sluggard, averse to effort, save when prompted by interest or necessity; and if we would stir him to action and excite him to an exertion of his godlike powers, we are forced to appeal to this selfish principle of our nature; and when this elicits no response he continues imperturbed and indifferent to every other influence. Like the tortoise, he remains inclosed in his invulnerable shell and only ventures forth when impelled by want or lured by the fascinations of pleasure. And when wealth surrounds him with her allurements and ministers to his appetites and passions, he yields himself to her irresistible charms, passively submits to her control and breathes not an aspiration for intellectual pre-eminence or moral worth. And in this fatal embrace have ignobly perished some of the finest intellects that have emanated from the Creative hand—intellects which, if fostered and fully developed, might have enthroned their possessors on the highest pinnacle of fame and invested their memories with a halo of undying glory. But like giants unconscious of their strength, they slumbered on, and, stupefied by the opiate of sensual pleasure, they awoke not to feel those generous impulses which inspire to noble deeds.

But if close application is necessary for success in the ordinary pursuits of life, it is much more essential for him who dedicates himself to the practice of medicine. He must not only thoroughly understand the complex machinery of the human organism, and the appropriate function of each individual part, but with promptness recognize their aberrations and with facility restore them to their normal action. To fulfil this requirement, he must not be satisfied with the meagre pittance acquired during a brief collegiate course; for although, to the novitiate, this may appear ample and sufficient, it is nevertheless but the skeleton

which subsequent study and observation must clothe with muscles and nerves and all the other essentials of complete organization. Whilst I would not disparage the incalculable benefits which may be derived from an attendance upon the lecture-room, still I would lift my warning voice against that fatal delusion cherished by some, that its occupants leap forth from its walls, as did the fabled god, fully armed for a successful contest with disease. Although the living teacher is a valuable and almost indispensable aid to the student, greatly facilitating his progress by simplifying the abstractions of science, elucidating obscurities and removing other impediments in his pathway, still, at most, he but furnishes the foundations on which to build and not the superstructure.

And to the knowledge here acquired, the physician should constantly seek to make additions, by enlarging the circle of his investigations, and extending his researches far up the ordinary channels of information until he reaches the rippling stream which gushes from their fountain-heads. He must descend from generalities to the study of minute details, from the consideration of principles to a careful analysis of the premises upon which they are based, ever earnestly endeavoring to discriminate between truth and error, so as to winnow the wheat from the chaff and separate the gold from its alloy.

And to intellectual culture and rigid application, he must bring an unreserved devotion to his profession which would cause him to abnegate self, and, if necessary, suffer immolation on the altar of humanity.

Nor must this proceed from the suggestions of a vaulting ambition which—

“ Courts a glorious doom—
A bright destruction and a shining tomb;”

but from a higher and holier influence, from a profound conviction of duty. For it is this alone of all things else, which can enable him to fulfil his sacred mission and pre-

sent the grand moral spectacle of an individual asserting the dignity of his manhood and boldly confronting disease, when like a withering simoom it sweeps over the land, blighting and blasting every living object in its pathway; nor even recoiling from his task when death is exhausting his full quiver, and an effort to stay his progress may involve a forfeiture of life itself. Instances of this character by no means rare in the annals of our profession, afford an example of true heroism before which pales the valor of the warrior, though chanted by song and honored with the wreathing laurcl; because it was prompted by a spirit of pure benevolence, whilst the other, too often, is the mere offspring of a sordid selfish ambition. It may not awake the trump of fame or enter into story, but it enjoys a richer reward, the approval of conscience and the benediction of heaven.

But, gentlemen, whilst you may be oppressed and overwhelmed with a profound sense of your unfitness for the efficient and satisfactory performance of the duties incumbent on you, in consequence of the professional relation you are about to assume, still you have the consolation to know, that you possess an important advantage not enjoyed by your cotemporaries of the dominant school. Whilst they grope in thick darkness, without even the twilight of approaching morn to gleam upon their pathway and gladden their bewildered vision, you bask in the clear sunlight of *similia similibus curantur*, the daystar of hope to suffering humanity and the harbinger of a new era in the history of the art of healing. Nor is this a mere dogma evolved by the lucubrations of some visionary enthusiast and destined after a brief celebrity, to lapse into merited oblivion, to add another to the long catalogue of exploded doctrines which form the staple of medical history; it is something more, it is an immutable and essential principle of nature, evoked by the genius and indefatigable research of Hahnemann, and it promises to do for medicine what Newton did for physics, and Kepler

for astronomy—rescue it from the uncertainty of hypothesis and invest it with the dignity and importance of a science.

Conscious of its well-founded claims to recognition as the great central law of cure, it appeals to the tribunal of reason and philosophy, challenges their most rigid scrutiny, and expresses its entire willingness to acquiesce in their impartial verdict. And as often as it has been subjected to this trial, and been awarded even-handed justice, just so often has it vindicated its legitimacy and silenced the voice of rational objection.

But, inasmuch as human ingenuity may so far pervert the powers of intellect, as by a process of refined and intricate reasoning, to cause the most patent error to assume the guise of unquestioned truth, the doctrine of similitude has consented to undergo a still further ordeal, in order to satisfy the most sceptical and demonstrate its strong claims to public confidence and respect; it has, therefore, been placed in the crucible of practical experience, and tried by all the varied tests the inventive mind of man could suggest; and from this fiery furnace, also, it has invariably come forth radiant with new lustre, its untold virtues displayed in clearer light, and its rational basis made more apparent. And, although its opponents have aimed at it their envenomed shafts, and pursued it with all the rancor of malignant hate, it has, nevertheless, ever presented an impregnable front, and, hurling defiance at its adversaries, advanced in its conscious and aggressive power with the resistless tread of a conqueror, every day making fresh conquests and winning new trophies and more widely extending the sway of its mild sceptre. From Germany, the focus of Hahnemann's efforts, the rays of light have been diffused and distributed until in every land they have shed their genial influence around many a hearthstone where hope was flickering ready to expire, and sent pulsations of joy to hearts over which despair had long been brooding, restored the healthful flush to many a wan cheek and lustre

to many a glazing eye. And notwithstanding its enemies have classed it with those delusions that have blazed like meteors soon to be quenched in utter darkness, and ill-boding prophets in their vaticinations have predicted its speedy decline and extinction, it still lives to rejoice like a strong man to run a race, and flushed with the past unparalleled triumphs, it already clutches after the reins of universal dominion.

But divested of all the coloring of metaphor or the garniture of rhetoric, let us revert to the circumstances that surrounded its conception, its struggles for life and recognition, and with these, briefly contrast its present position and power, and we must conclude that it requires not the aid of prophetic vision to look down the vista of coming years, and foresee the early dawn of that period when the tricolor of Homœopathy will make the circuit of the world and receive the homage of every grateful heart. At first friendless and proscribed, it now enjoys the patronage of royalty and the protecting ægis of the civil law. Then its votaries were few and despised, now they comprise millions and are distinguished for their intelligence and virtue. In its infancy it was derided and persecuted, in its manhood it is caressed and honored. In almost every populous city, hospitals are open where its benefactions are dispensed and in many, colleges are erected where its principles are expounded and its lessons of instruction are imparted. "Men commendable for their scientific distinction and medical attainments, members of faculties, hospital physicians and eminent practitioners have embraced it." Journals have been established and societies instituted in various countries for the purpose of disseminating its doctrines and promoting its practice, and as a tribute to its illustrious founder, he has been enthroned in bronze amid the plaudits of a grateful world. In short, we everywhere discover indubitable evidences, strong as holy writ, to convince us that its march is onward to final victory, and that Allopathy with its dark and bloody memories, its un-

expiated sacrifice of human life, is ever retreating at its approach, and must ultimately succumb to its authority.

But to achieve this devoutly wished for result, we must labor to preserve our system intact, free from interpolation or abridgment; and not suffer it to be emasculated or shorn of its virtues by those who would inaugurate what they would dignify with the imposing appellation of a rational Homœopathy, in which fancy weaves her gossamer web, and sophistry constructs her perplexing mazes. This, gentlemen, is the wooden horse, which, if not teeming with armed men, contains at least the elements of destruction, and in relation to which, it behooves us to heed the admonition of Virgil,

“*Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes.*”

It is just as true in medicine as in moral ethics, that he that is not for us is against us; and those are to be regarded as the most dangerous foes who would explain away even the minor principles of our school, and thus lower its standard and pluck the well-earned laurel wreath from the brow of its illustrious author, in order to conciliate opposition or with the less honorable motive of promoting their personal aggrandizement or pecuniary profit. We very much fear that too many of this class are as indifferent about the *true* interests of Homœopathy, as was that honest Hibernian, who being in bed in a violent storm and told the house would tumble over his head, made answer, “What care I for the house? I am only a lodger.”

But whilst it is our imperative duty to repudiate and goad with the barbed arrows of truth till they cry out in utter agony, all those whose teachings are subversive of the distinctive and essential tenets of our school, yet we must beware lest we vibrate to an opposite extreme, and in a spirit of intolerance and mistaken zeal, repress mental activity and rational controversy, and thus blight and scathe the first buddings of truth; for even excessive

agitation is less to be deprecated than the undisturbed calm which broods over the Dead Sea.

Although the principles of our science are fixed and immutable, still there underlie and spring from it questions that admit of an honest difference of opinion and are the legitimate subjects of discussion. But unfortunately our discussions are too prone to degenerate into bitter personalities and become a mere contest for victory, instead of having for their great paramount object the elimination of truth and the increase of knowledge. "That there is a fearful amount of illiberality, narrowness and cant, of contemptuous and scornful invective, of self-satisfied and haughty condemnation in the tone and conduct of medical men, no one well acquainted with them can for a moment doubt." And although this condition of things is painful and humiliating to acknowledge it is nevertheless so patent and notorious that it cannot be disguised or gainsaid. It ramifies throughout our ranks and is the prolific parent of nearly all the evils that afflict and curse our profession. It checks and drives back upon the ingenuous heart the free issues of spontaneous feeling and renders our intercourse frigid and conventional. It applies the keen edge of the dissecting knife of cynical criticism to the characters and productions of our associates and searches for their follies and peccadilloes with inquisitorial rigor. In short, it is the fountain from which flows the bitter waters of dissension and acrimony, and the incubus which presses with leaden weight upon our cause and retards its onward march. And instead of being extenuated or justified as an inevitable necessity, we should earnestly labor for its banishment and extirpation, since it is not in sympathy with the spirit of Christianity that willeth no evil to his neighbor, or in accordance with the well established principles of criticism; for as Lord Kames properly observes, "to censure works, not men, is the true prerogative of this science." Instead of indulging in unholy strife over empty abstractions and wasting our energies in futile

endeavors to solve abstruse questions of no vital importance, we should harmonize our efforts and emulate each other in our devotion to the noble science that has for its lofty aim the enfranchisement of our race and the promotion and conservation of its dearest interests, our sole ambition being to increase its facilities for usefulness and better qualify it for the accomplishment of the high mission for which heaven has ordained it. Let us rise superior to the baleful influence of petty jealousy and turbulent passion and recognize all as brethren and collaborators who acknowledge the validity and supremacy of the great central law of *similia similibus curantur*. Let this be our shibboleth and not lateral issues upon which there never can be a coincidence of opinion. Then and only then, can we participate in the true irrepressible conflict, in which reason is arrayed against prejudice, truth against error, and light against darkness. Then will our unity and fraternity be a prelude to a new era in our history, when our embattled hosts will become formidable and strike terror into the ranks of our common foe, and our cause advance with ever increasing power, until in its peaceful triumph it has reduced all mankind to its sway and belted the world with a fairer and richer zone than ever clasped the waist of Cytheria.

But gentlemen, I have already detained you too long and must desist, since you are impatient to rejoin the domestic circle and receive those cordial greetings and congratulations which await you. In conclusion, therefore, permit me in behalf of those whom I have the honor to represent to assure you, that your uniform courtesy and propriety of deportment, your respectful attention to the voice of instruction, and untiring devotion to study, have won for you not only our profound regard but enshrined you in the warmest affections of our souls.

And although our daily intercourse may be interrupted and the endearing relation of teacher and pupil dissolved, still our hearts will pulsate with joy at the intelligence of

your success, and tenderly sympathize with you in the darkest hour of misfortune. And as a parting injunction, let me entreat you to be true to your God, to humanity, to your country, and to the cause which you have espoused, and then will your Alma Mater ever proudly point to you, as did the mother of the Gracchi, as her jewels.

GRADUATES OF 1862.

At a Public Commencement, held in the Musical Fund Hall, March 3, 1862, the Degree of the College was conferred, by authority of the Board of Managers, upon the following named gentlemen, by RICHARD GARDINER, M. D.

NAME.	RESIDENCE.	TITLE OF THESIS.
Bailey, G. W.	New York,	Diphtheria.
Barnes, G. L.	R. Island,	Measles.
Bender, J. S.	Pa.	Ætiology.
Brouse, H. Kelsay	Pa.	The Physician, or the Study of Medicine.
Bumstead, Samuel J.	Illinois,	Divisibility of Matter, &c.
Hewitt, H. T.	Connecticut,	Natural Labor.
Middleton, Caleb S.	New Jersey,	Hydrophobia—its Cause and Treatment.
Monell, John F.	Pa.	Variola.
Slough, Franklin J.	Pa.	Diphtheria.
Taylor, Richard G.	Pa.	Rubeola.
Wallens, Miles W.	Pa.	Variola.
Wilson, Pusey	Del.	The Healing of Wounds—a Process of Nutrition.

S. S. BROOKS, M. D., Dean,
1320 Vine Street.

MATRICULANTS OF THE COLLEGE, SESSION OF 1861-62.

Bailey, Geo. W.	.	.	.	.	New York.
Barnes, Geo. L.	.	.	.	.	Rhode Island.
Bender, J. S.	.	.	.	.	Pennsylvania.
Boerieke, Francis E.	.	.	.	.	Pennsylvania.
Brickley, Jeremiah W.	.	.	.	.	Pennsylvania.
Brouse, H. Kelsay	.	.	.	.	Pennsylvania.
Bumstead, Samnel J.	.	.	.	.	Illinois.
Chambers, Wm. C.	.	.	.	.	Pennsylvania.
Chamberlain, Chas. H.	.	.	.	.	Vermont.
Danforth, Richard H.	.	.	.	.	Connecticut.
Dudley, Pemberton, M. D.	.	.	.	.	Pennsylvania.
Earhart, Wm. I.	.	.	.	.	Pennsylvania.
Farrington, H. Walter	.	.	.	.	Pennsylvania.
Foster, G. S., M. D.	.	.	.	.	Pennsylvania.
Gilchrist, J. G.	.	.	.	.	Pennsylvania.
Hewitt, H. T.	.	.	.	.	Connecticut.
Homer, Horace	.	.	.	.	Pennsylvania.
Iorkenson, Joseph	.	.	.	.	Pennsylvania.
Kittinger, Leonard	.	.	.	.	New Jersey.
Middleton, Caleb S.	.	.	.	.	New Jersey.
Monell, John F.	.	.	.	.	Pennsylvania.
Pratt, Henry C.	.	.	.	.	Pennsylvania.
Pfeiffer, Casper	.	.	.	.	Pennsylvania.
Raseh, William	.	.	.	.	Pennsylvania.
Rose, John F.	.	.	.	.	Pennsylvania.
Sharp, Anthony H.	.	.	.	.	Pennsylvania.

Slough, Franklin J.	.	.	.	Pennsylvania.
Smith, Geo. B.	.	.	.	Conneetieut.
Starkey, Daniel F.	.	.	.	Massachusetts.
Taylor, Richard G.	.	.	.	Pennsylvania.
Tindall, V. R.	.	.	.	Delaware.
Wallens, Miles W.	.	.	.	Pennsylvania.
Willard, Lewis H.	.	.	.	Pennsylvania.
Wilson, Pusey	.	.	.	Delaware.